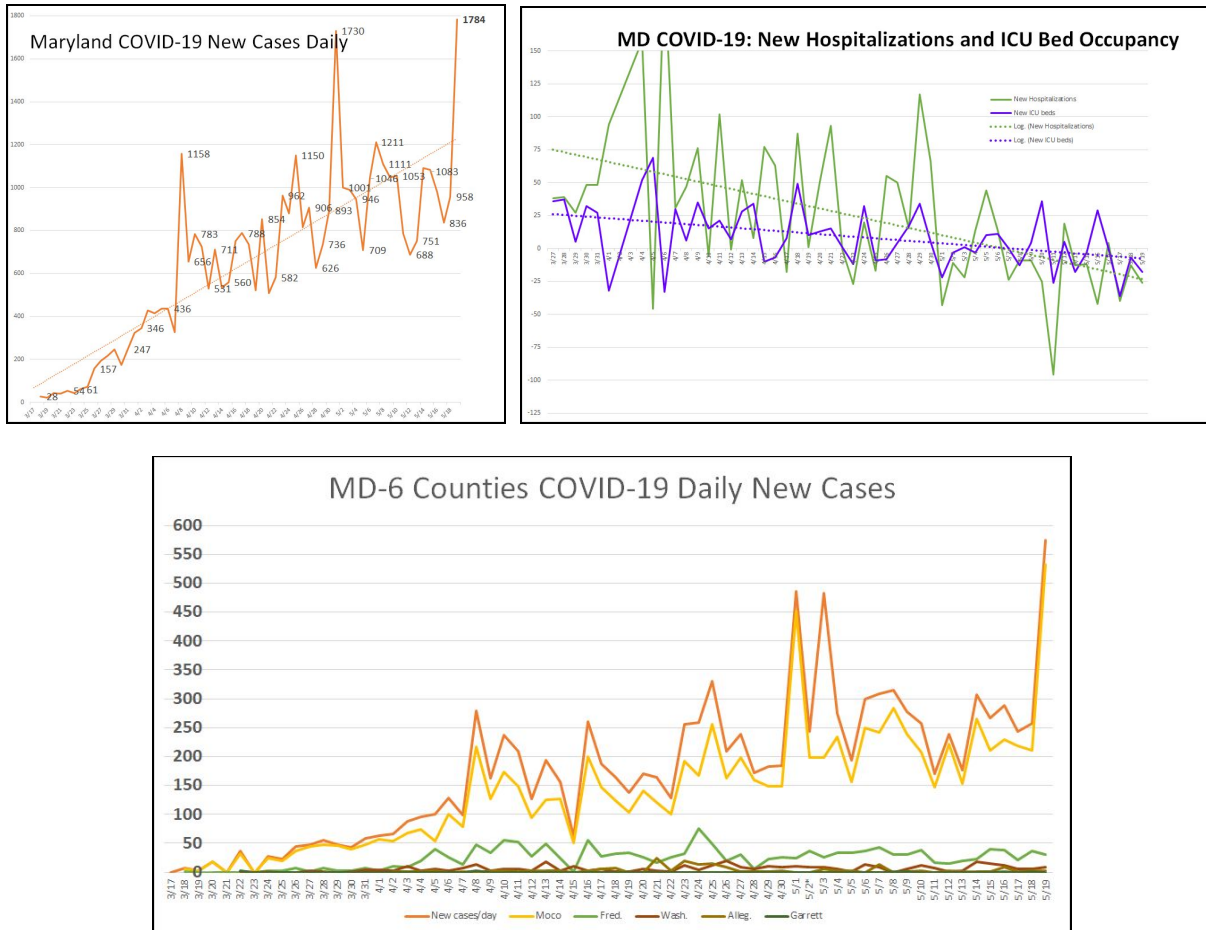


Daily Coronavirus Update: May 19 Congressman David Trone (MD6)

Stats @ 5 PM

With increased testing capacity coming online in Maryland, Governor Larry Hogan is tracking trends in **hospitalizations** and **ICU beds** for indicators on when to proceed with steps to fully reopen the state. Gov Hogan has given local governments flexibility for reopening decisions, based on local conditions.



Total cases reported: MoCo 8,950, Fred. 1,4911, Wash. 352, Alleg. 166, Garrett 7. MD: 41,546, MD deaths: 1,963.

As of 5PM, the U.S. had recorded 1,523,534 confirmed cases and 91,570 deaths due to Coronavirus ([JHU](#)).

Federal Updates

- Speaking today to the Senate Banking Committee, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Fed Chairman Jerome H. Powell offered a stark assessment of the fragile state of the economy, warning of more severe job losses in the months to come. Mr. Powell suggested that more fiscal support to states and businesses might be needed to avoid permanent job losses. Mr. Mnuchin suggested that without an expeditious reopening, the economy might never fully recover. ([NYTimes](#))
- The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has started a clinical trial to evaluate whether hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin could treat COVID-19 in mild or moderate cases. NIAID Director Anthony Fauci stated that, "although there is anecdotal evidence that hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin may benefit people with COVID-19, we need solid data from a large randomized, controlled

clinical trial to determine whether this experimental treatment is safe and can improve clinical outcomes.” There are other clinical trials underway of the drugs approved for malaria, rheumatoid arthritis and lupus ([announcement link](#)). The Food and Drug Administration last month [warned](#) that the drugs should not be taken for Covid-19 outside a hospital or a clinical trial, citing “reports of serious heart rhythm problems.” Yesterday, the president announced he was taking hydroxychloroquine prophylactically since two White House staffers tested positive for the virus.

Maryland Updates

- Beginning Thursday, COVID-19 tests will be available to Marylanders upon request and without a doctor’s referral or appointment, according to an announcement today by Gov. Larry Hogan. Drive-thru appointment-free tests will be available at the Timonium Fairgrounds beginning Thursday, at the Glen Burnie and Hyattsville VEIP stations starting Friday, and at the Clinton VEIP site beginning next week. Licensed pharmacists will also be able to provide COVID-19 tests onsite. Residents do not have to show symptoms of COVID-19, and tests will be completed at no charge to them ([announcement](#) and [executive order](#)).
- Maryland recorded its highest ever one-day jump in confirmed COVID-19 cases today. According to [The Baltimore Sun](#), Maryland’s rate of positive tests is nearly 20 percent--well above the WHO-recommended benchmark of 3-12 percent. As [Johns Hopkins](#) explains: high positivity rates may indicate that the state is only testing the sickest patients who seek medical attention, and does not have enough testing capacity to accurately measure how prevalent the virus is within its communities. Rates of 3-12 percent positivity are seen in countries that have successfully mounted extensive testing programs.

District Updates

- Montgomery County
 - a. Montgomery County health officials announced Monday that private and public community pools will remain closed in the county Memorial Day weekend. Health officials say this includes “apartment and condominium complex pools, and private swim clubs.”
 - b. Tuesday morning the Maryland Department of Health reported 8,950 cases of COVID-19 in Montgomery County, which is an increase of 533 cases from the 8,417 reported Monday. This is the largest daily increase in cases since the first three cases were confirmed on March 4.
- Frederick County
 - a. Frederick County is looking at a change that would allow the County Council to more quickly adopt certain legislation during the current pandemic. That change would allow the County Council to suspend its typical procedure of holding a workshop, first reading, second reading/public hearing and third reading/final vote in separate meetings on certain bills because of the coronavirus pandemic and the “catastrophic health emergency.”
- Washington County
 - a. Meritus Health has started limited testing for COVID-19 antibodies in health care professionals and first responders on a voluntary basis. “With our advanced capabilities at Meritus Medical Laboratory, this will help us lay the groundwork to better understand this virus’ prevalence in our community,” Dr. John Newby, medical director for the lab, said in a news release announcing the testing that began Monday.
- Allegany County
 - a. Allegany County health officials reported two new cases of COVID-19 on Monday, bringing the total to 164. The latest cases are a man in his 20s who is not hospitalized and a man in his 70s who is hospitalized.
- Garrett County - no updates